



HF Happenings

No 517

August 2012

The photograph in HF Happenings 516 was taken in Burgersdorp in the North-Eastern Cape. This is a view of the Dutch Reformed Church in town.

Win a huge arrangement of flowers in the YL Sprint

This is a fun activity to celebrate Women's Day on 9 August between radio amateurs in South Africa. Call "YL Sprint." The Sprint is on the air on Thursday 9 August from 09:00 to 10:00 UTC [11:00 to 12:00 CAT]. The exchange is a RS report and YL or OM. It is a phone sprint on the 40-metre band, 7060 to 7100 and 7130 to 7200 kHz.

Scoring - contacts between YL stations are worth 5 points; contacts between YL and OM stations are worth 3 points and contacts between OM stations are worth 1 point.

The logs from all YLs participating in the event will be entered into the lucky draw for a beautiful flower arrangement to be delivered to the winner's home. To qualify please include your home address in the log submission.

Log sheets and summaries shall be submitted by 16 August 2012 to zs4bfn@netactive.co.za or by mail to the Bloemfontein ARC, Box 33211, Fichardt Park, 9317.

Book Now for the Radio Technology in Action Symposium in Gauteng on 18 August

Bookings have opened for the Radio Technology in Action Symposium to be held at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Saturday 18 August 2012. Full details of the symposium are available on line at www.sarl.org.za. Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE, joins the RTA team on 18 August with a presentation about RaDAR, Rapid Deployed Amateur Radio. It is a fun presentation with hints and kink how to fun from outdoor amateur radio.

South African Radio League
Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga

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Union since 1925

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Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





You can pre-book and take part in an additional prize draw for the ARRL Book "Basic Antennas." If you would like a programme to be sent to your inbox, send an e-mail to rta@sarl.org.za with RTA NARC in the subject line and a PDF copy will be mailed to you.

SARL HF Digital Contest

The aim of the HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa (General Rules para 1.b.) as possible on 20, 40 and 80 metres. The SARL HF Digital contest will be run from 13:00 to 16:00 UTC [15:00 to 18:00 CAT] on Sunday 19 August with PSK31 and RTTY activity on 14 070 to 14 099 kHz; 7 040 to 7 060 and 3 580 to 3 600 kHz.

PSK31 is preferred at the lower end of the specified frequencies and RTTY is preferred at the upper end of the specified frequencies. Please note that USB must be used at all times. Refer to General Rule #16

Participation can be as a a) Single Operator Single Band; b) Single Operator All Band; c) Multi Operator Single Band or d) Multi Operator All Band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete. The exchange is a RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

Each digital QSO counts 3 point. Count two points for each area (see below) on each band and count 2 points for each station contacted on all three bands.

The areas are - Area 1: ZS1 Western Cape; Area 2: ZS2 Eastern Cape; Area 3: ZS3 Northern Cape; Area 4: ZS4 Free State; Area 5: ZS5 KwaZulu-Natal; Area 6: ZS6 Gauteng, Mpumalanga; Limpopo and North West; Area 7: 3B8 Mauritius, 3DA Swaziland, 7P Lesotho, 7Q Malawi, C9 Mozambique, Z2 Zimbabwe, 5R Madagascar, FR Reunion Island and FH Mayotte and Area 8: 9J Zambia, A2 Botswana, D2 Angola, V5 Namibia, ZD9 Gough and Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZS7 Antarctica and ZS8 Marion Island. Contacts with stations outside these areas are allowed, QSO points may be claimed but no zone or three-bander points may be claimed.

Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score in each contest. There is also a trophy for the highest combined score in three contests.

Logs must be sent to the Bloemfontein ARC, Box 33211, Fichardt Park, 9317 or by e-mail to zs4bfn@netactive.co.za by Sunday 26 August.

A look at the upcoming WRC 2015

A proposed permanent secondary allocation to the amateur service at or near 5 MHz is among agenda items for the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015.

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm

August

5 – SARL HF Phone Contest
9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
9 to 11 – Schreiner Karoo Writers festival, Cradock; Oppikoppi, Northam, Limpopo
10 – School holiday
11 – Fort Nottingham Highland Games, Fort Nottingham
10 to 12 – The Ross Taylor Benefit Surf Contest, Knysna; Slow 2012, Robertson
18 – World Geocaching Day
18 and 19 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
19 – SARL HF Digital Contest
19 – Oude Molen Distillery Mountain Bike Challenge, Elgin Valley
24 and 25 – Hantam Meat Festival, Calvinia
24 to 31 – Clanwilliam Wild Flower Show
26 – SARL HF CW Contest
31 Aug to 2 Sept – Winter Festival, Williston

September

1 – ZS6JVT 40 m Youth Contest
1 to 7 – National Arbour Week
5 – Secretaries Day
15 and 16 – SARL VHF/UHF Contest
16 – World Ozone Day
21 – Closing date October RAE
24 – Heritage Day; SARL Heritage Day Contest
26 – SARL Club Contest, SSB
27 – World Tourism Day
28 – Schools close

If you are attending any events, take your amateur radio with and spread the word about our hobby!





There are numerous items on the 2015 World Radiocommunications meeting agenda, as spelled out at the end of the recently concluded 2012 conference. One is the proposal for a possible new allocation to the amateur service on a secondary basis within the band 5,250 to 5,450 MHz. The International Amateur Radio Union has described such an allocation as being among the best for radio amateurs to use to provide around the clock emergency communications. So far, little in the way of objections has been heard in public.

The SARL has applied for a license to pilot operation on 5 MHz for propagation experimentation purposes. The ICASA recently told the SARL that the agency is looking at suitable frequencies and expects to make a decision soon.

Do you have back copies of Radio ZS

The SARL is in the process of binding Radio ZS in book form but has some copies missing. If you have and can spare the following editions, please contact Francois, ZS6BUU, on 011 679 5260

2003 Mar/Apr, May/Jun, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct;

2004 Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun;

2009 Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec; 2010 Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec, and

2011 May/Jun, Jul/Aug

ITU Assigns New Prefix for Niue: E6A - E6Z

On 3 August, the ITU updated its Table of International Call Sign Series to reflect a call sign change for Niue. The island will now have the entire E6 prefix block. Niue, an island located approximately 2 735 km northeast of New Zealand, is a self-governing island nation that has been in free association with New Zealand since 1974. Prior to the change, the island used ZK2. http://www.itu.int/online/mms/glad/cga_callsign.sh?lng=E

According to the CIA World Fact Book, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ne.html>, Niue is about 1,5 times the size of Washington, DC, and has a population of almost 1 300 people.

Lakshadweep Islands, VU7

Members of the Bangalore Amateur Radio Club (VU2ARC) and a small group of amateur radio volunteers will be active as VU7M from Minicoy Island (AS-106, between 13 and 22 August). The group received special permission from Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, and the Government of India on 26 July, to use the special call sign VU7M to represent India during the 2012 International/Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, 18 and 19 August.

Operators mentioned are Arasu, VU2UR, Laxmanan, VU2LX, Srikantha, VU2GSM, Govind, VU2GGM, Ramesh, VU2LU, and Lion, VU2JHM. Details on QRZ.com state that they will be "setting up humble HF station" and the QSL route is "DIRECT or through the Bureau." For more details (plenty of URLs to look at) and updates, watch QRZ.com under VU7M.

African DX

Benin, TY. Patrice, TY2BP has been active on 15 metres CW around 13:30 UTC. QSL via IK2IQD.

Namibia, V5. Hans, DF2UU, will be active from the end of August to the middle of September as V5/DF2UU. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters. He will also be active during some contests.

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





Tanzania, 5H. Roland, DL4ME, will be active as 5H3ME from 14 August to 3 September with his son Mike, 5H3EE. Operation will take place on 80 to 6 metres CW and digital modes. QSL via home call.

West Africa Tour, 6W and C5. Dominic, M1TKA, will be active as M1KTA/6W from Senegal from 15 to 22 August and from The Gambia (C5) from 22 to 29 August. He will operate SSB, RTTY, PSK and CW on most HF bands. One-day side trips to Goree Island (AF-045, 6W) and the Bijol Islands (AF-060, C5) are being planned. While on the islands he will operate on 20 metres SSB (battery powered QRP).

QSL via home call, direct or bureau. Check <http://m1kta-grp.blogspot.co.uk> for updates.

African Islands

Comoros, D6. A group of operators will be active as D64K from Ngazidja Island, IOTA AF-007, from 8 to 21 August. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres, and possibly 60 metres, using CW, SSB and RTTY with five stations. QSL via IV3DSH.

Diego Garcia VQ. Chuck, W4XP, will be active as VQ9XP from the VQ9X club station on Diego Garcia (AF-006) between 9 and 25 August. He plans to focus on 6 metres, with some activity in the HF bands if times permits. QSL via home call and LoTW.

Jim, VQ9JC (ND9M) is back on Diego Garcia (AF-006) until mid November. The ham shack was closed for maintenance during his absence from the island, and he does not know yet when it will be re-opened. In the meantime, he operates from two different locations on the island, both of which are in recreational parks. All of his operating is currently Field Day style, "in that I bring all my gear (rig, power supply, antennas, power and coax cables, keyer, laptop, and tools - about 40 pounds) with me in two backpacks. There is no shortage of trees, but I can only get the antenna up about 25 feet because of the density of the palms." He has to set up the station and then break it down each day, "which further limits my operating time to 12:30 - 16:15 UTC on most days typically". He runs 100 watts into single-band dipoles; he operates mainly CW with some SSB, while digital modes are not available for the time being. QSL via ND9M.

Reunion, FR. Willi, FR/DF7RJ will be active from 26 September to 21 October on 160 to 10 metres, using CW and SSB, with special attention to the US and JA on the low bands. QSL direct to his home call.

Special Event Stations

Germany. The two special event call signs DP775BLN and DQ775BLN will be active until the end of this year, celebrating the 775th anniversary of Berlin. These and other club stations from Berlin will have the special DOK BLN775. More than 10 000 QSOs have been logged so far. Visit <http://www.darc.de/distrikte/d/775bln>

Also DP87SIXD will be active throughout the year, for the 87th Enduro Team World Championship (Six Days). For the first time in 23 years, the International Six Days Enduro (ISDE) take place in Germany again. QSL via bureau.

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 6 to 13 August 2012.

ARS Spartan Sprint

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 7 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Skinny; Tubby

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power

Work stations: Once per band

Submit logs by: 9 August 2012

E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.arsgrp.blogspot.com/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: name, state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 11 August 2012

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint

18:00 UTC-20:00 UTC 8 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each country in Europe; First country in each continent worked other than Europe;

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 20:00 UTC 11 August 2012

E-mail logs to: submitlog@naqcc-eu.org

Upload log at: <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/autologger/>

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





Mail logs to: M Ireland, MW3YMY, Pen-y-Gadlas, Ffordd Bryniau, Meliden, Prestatyn, Denbighshire LL19 8RD, UK

Find rules at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/SprintHelp/SprintRules.pdf>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 10 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country and name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 11 August 2012

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12 August 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

WAE DX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 11 August to 23:59 UTC 12 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - high or low; Multi-Op; SWL

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours, off times in 1 to 3 parts; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: >100 Watts; LP: 100 Watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 27 August 2012

E-mail logs to: waecw@dxhf.darc.de

Mail logs to: (none)

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





Find rules at: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>

Maryland-DC QSO Party

16:00 UTC 11 August to 04:00 UTC 12 August and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 12 August

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, 432

Classes: Standard; Mobile; Club; QRP

Exchange: MDC: entry class and county; non-MDC: entry class and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with club station; 5 points per QSO with mobile station; 4 points per QSO with QRP station; 3 points per QSO with CW/digital station; 1 point per QSO for all other stations; Bonus: 50 points for at least one QSO with either W3VPR or KI3DS

Multipliers: MDC: Each MD county, DC, Baltimore City, once only; MDC: Each state (other than MD), VE province and country once only; non-MDC: Each MD county, DC, Baltimore City, once only

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 11 September 2012

E-mail logs to: MDQSOP@w3vpr.org

Mail logs to: MDC QSO Party, PO Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035, USA

Find rules at: <http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/MarylandQSOPartyRules2011v2.pdf>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 12 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 19 August 2012

Post log summary at: <http://wes.m0trn.com/submission.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

Feld Hell Sprint

20:00 - 22:00 UTC 12 August

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 19 August 2012

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





E-mail logs to: kj8o@wowway.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/oldfiles/contests/sprint-rules>

SARL HF Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC 19 August

Mode: PSK31 and RTTY

Class: Single Operator Single Band; Single Operator All Band; Multi-Operator Single Band; Multi-Operator All Band

Max power: As per Radio Regulations

Exchange: RS and a consecutive serial number starting at 001

QSO points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: See rules

Score Calculation: See rules

Submit logs by: 27 August 2012

E-mail logs to: zs4bfm@netactive.co.za

Mail logs to: The Bloemfontein ARC, Box 33211, Fichardt Park, 9317

Find rules at: In the 2012 SARL Contest Manual at <http://www.sarl.org.za> or C:\My Documents\Amateur Radio on your computer

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 15 August

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 17 August

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 17 August

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 08:00 UTC, 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 18 August and 08:00 - 16:00 UTC 19 August

Russian District Award Contest, 08:00 UTC 18 August to 08:00 UTC 19 August

Keyman's Club of Japan Contest, 12:00 UTC 18 August to 12:00 UTC 19 August

North American QSO Party, SSB, 18:00 UTC 18 August to 06:00 UTC 19 August

CVA DX Contest, CW, 21:00 UTC 18 August to 21:00 UTC 19 August

SARL HF Digital Contest, 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 19 August

ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY, 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 19 August

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 20 August

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 6 August 2012.

1248 - Construction of Cologne Cathedral begun

1709 - First known ascent in hot-air balloon, Bartolomeu de Gusmao (indoors)

1829 - The "Stourbridge Lion" locomotive goes into service, England.

1831 - First US steam engine train run (Albany to Schenectady, NY)

1851 - Isaac Singer granted patent for his sewing machine

1866 - Transatlantic cable laid - Pres Buchanan communicates over it to Queen Victoria

1877 - Thomas Edison invents the Edisonphone, a sound recording device

1880 - Construction of Cologne Cathedral completed

1893 - France issues first driving licenses, included required test

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





1907 - First taxicab in New York City

1909 - SOS First used by an American ship, Arapahoe, off Cape Hatteras, NC

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

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